

## CHAPMAN, Harold

Service Number 646232

Rank Private

Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Born November 23, 1876, Goudhurst, Kent

Died August 15, 1917, at Vimy, France

Occupation Rancher, French Creek, Parksville

Marital Status Married to Irene Lethbridge Chapman of Berkshire, England; two children

As a young man, Harold Chapman attended Eton. In 1897, he joined the British South Africa Police in Rhodesia. He served in several campaigns and won medals before he decided to resign his commission and make his way to a farming life on Vancouver Island. He married and had two children.

When WWI broke out, he returned to England and along with his brother, Wilfred, joined their uncle's regiment – the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. The regiment served at Gallipoli and by this time Harold's rank was that of Major. At Sulva Bay on August 6 and 7, 1915, Harold was wounded, and his uncle and brother were killed.

Harold was invalided back to Canada but, determined to see out the war, rejoined as a private in the Canadian Infantry in 1916 and saw action again at the beginning of 1917. At Vimy, Harold was wounded again, and then killed by a shell while on a stretcher. His name is among those listed on the Vimy Memorial.

His remarkable story has aroused curiosity among medal researchers. Articles have been written about his possible reasons for rejoining a war that had caused him so much trauma, and why a man who had held the rank of major would rejoin as a private.

Sources: Photo: Green Howards Museum  
<https://ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/>  
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
WWI Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada  
John Sly

